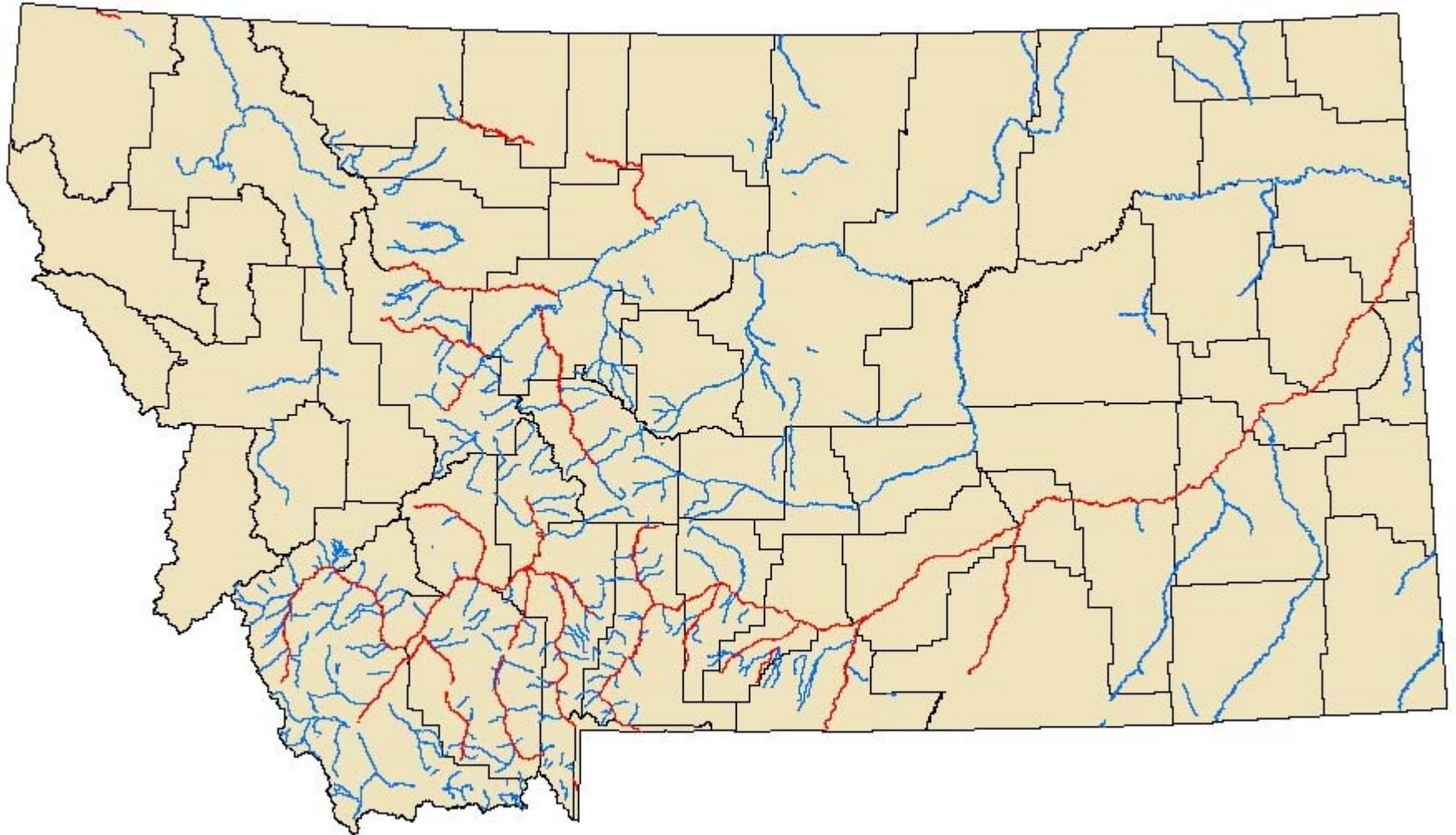




Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

July 19, 2007

Warning Letters



Calls On Water

- Big Hole River
- East Gallatin River
- Madison River below Ennis Lake
- Missouri River between Canyon Ferry and Toston
- Bighorn River
- Beaverhead River
- Gallatin River
- Smith River above Eden Bridge
- Marias River

Drought Fishing Restriction Policy

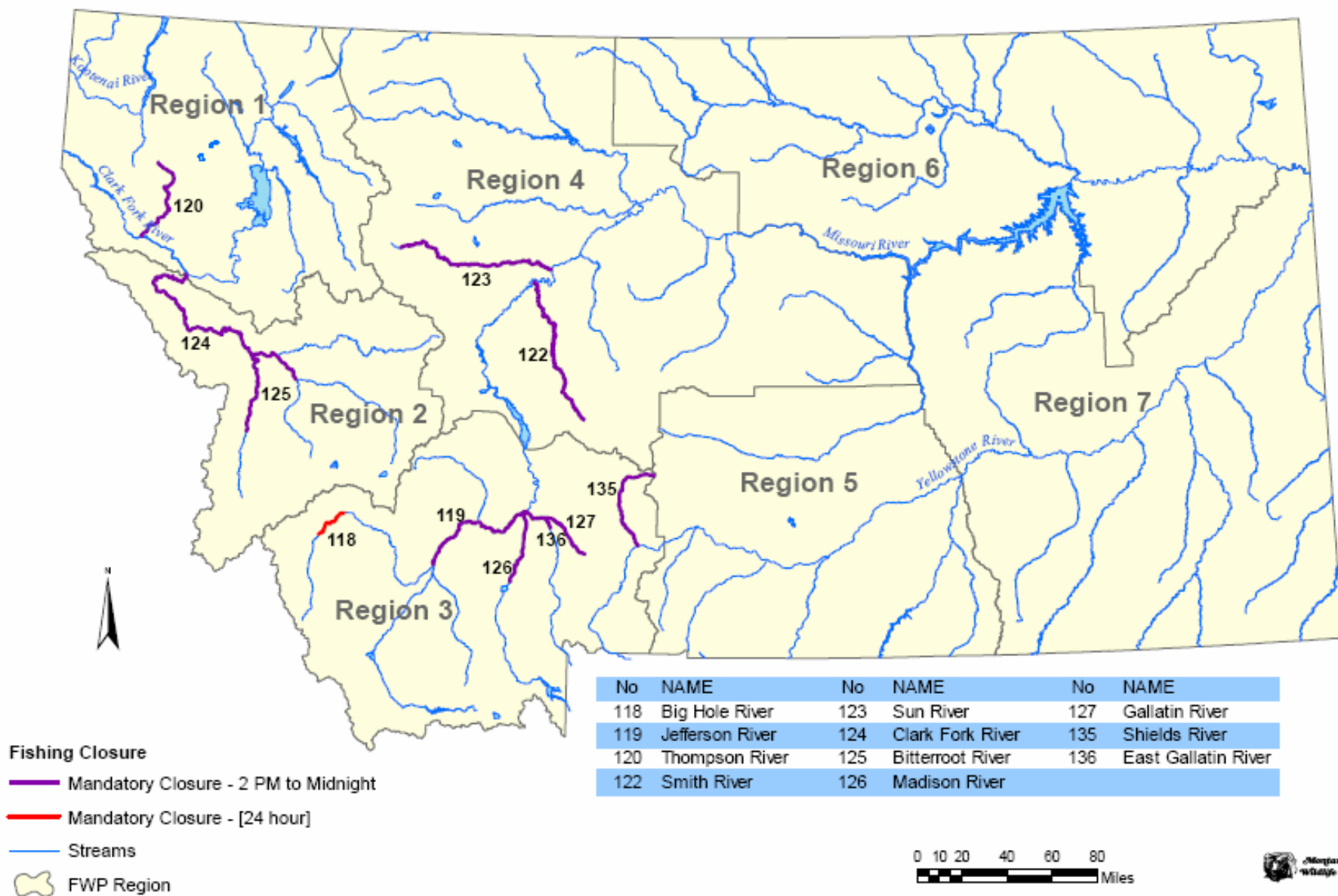
2007 Revisions

- No Voluntary Closures – Only Mandatory
- Time of Day Closure - 2 PM to Midnight
- Re-opening Criteria – prior to Sept. 15 three consecutive days when maximum water temp does not exceed 70° F

Fishing Restrictions and Closures

as of July 18, 2007

Conditions can change rapidly. Be sure to check current drought information.



Fish Kills

(not all have been verified)

- Noxon Rapids Reservoir – Perch
- Middle Big Hole – Trout (likely due to angler release mortality)
- Upper Yellowstone – Mountain Whitefish and few long-nose suckers and rainbow trout
- Lower Smith - Stonecats

Region 1 - Kalispell

- Flathead Lake at full pool
- Hungry Horse 3 feet below full
- Koocanusa 6 feet below full
- Expecting blue-green algae bloom in Lake Mary Ronan and salmon kills in Koocanusa if current weather conditions persist.

Region 2 - Missoula

- 25cfs release from West Fork Bitterroot Res. to support Bitterroot River fishery.
- Blackfoot Challenge drought plan is being implemented.

Region 3 - Bozeman

- High water temperatures and low flows on the upper Yellowstone may soon lead to fishing restrictions and calls on junior water users.
- Big Hole Watershed Committee drought plan is being implemented. Voluntary diversion reductions have successfully helped maintain flows.

USGS 06024450 Big Hole River bl Big Lake Cr at Wisdom MT



---- Provisional Data Subject to Revision ----

△ Median daily statistic (19 years) × Measured discharge

Region 4 – Great Falls

- Missouri River flows are better than other rivers in Region 4, but water temperature is being watched closely.
- Smith River flows have dropped very low and floating is no longer possible.

Region 5 - Billings

- Yellowstone River Flows dropping quickly and temperatures are quite high which may soon lead to fishing restrictions and calls on junior water users.
- Yellowtail Dam releases to Bighorn River expected to remain at 1750 cfs through March, less than the previous expected increase to 2000 cfs in October.

Region 6 – Glasgow

- Fresno and Nelson Reservoir levels are good.
- Ft. Peck Reservoir is expected to be 32.2 feet below full pool by the end of July. At the beginning of July it was 1.8 feet below last years level at the same time.
- A lack of sustained high flows in the Missouri River will likely lead to limited Paddlefish reproduction and survival of young of the year fish.

Region 7 – Miles City

- Passage channel around T&Y diversion on Tongue River to be completed in August.
- During high flow fish were using the uncompleted passage channel.
- Tongue River Reservoir populations should benefit from better lake levels than in recent years.